of Agri-Export Zones to provide enhanced international market access, improved infrastructural facilities, better flow of credit, assistance for reducing the market costs as also removal of export restrictions.

(iv) In the WTO negotiations on agriculture, the development countries have been accorded Special and Differential treatment in all areas of the Agreement on Agriculture including tariff reduction, domestic support and export subsidies. They have also been allowed two special mechanisms, namely, Special Products and special Safeguard Mechanism in order to meet their food security, livelihood security and rural development needs.

Scientists-farm club

1839. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to set up a scientists-farm club; and

(b) if so, the details of main activities of the club?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There is no plan to set-up scientists-farm club by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The Council has established a network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) Farm science centres in the country as a model for technology assessment, refinement and demonstration unit in the country. In order to accelerate the process of dissemination of technology, a number of extension activities involving the interaction between the subject matter specialists and the farmers are organized by the KVKs, such as Advisory services, Diagnostic vistits, Ex-trainees' sammelans, Exhibitions, Field days, Film shows, Group discussions, Kisan gosthis, Kisan melas, and Seminars/Workshops.

Valuation of sale of Township of HFCL

1840. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held on 29th June, 2004 in Delhi under the Chairmanship of the then Minister of State (Chemicals & Fertilizers) with the officials of Goverment of West Bengal, Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA), Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and others regarding finalisation of the valuation for outright sale of the township and water treatment plant of the closed Durgapur unit of M / s. HFCL to ADDA ; and

(b) if so, the details of the same, decisions taken in the meeting and status of implementation of the decisions?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No decision with regard to sale was reached in the said meeting.

National Pharmaceutical Authority

1841. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Pharmaceutical Authority and merge the existing NPPA with this proposed Authority as has been recommended by a high powered committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this Authority would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A Task force under the Chairmanship of Dr.Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005. The Task Force has recommended, *inter alia*, to establish a National Authority on Drugs and Therapeutics (NADT). The proposed NADT would integrate the officers of the Drugs Controller General of India, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the National Phamaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), along with all the powers and functions of these bodies.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a view would be taken regarding the setting up of the National Authority on Drugs and Therapeutics.

Profit margin on Generic Medicines to retailers

1842. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that pharma companies are giving huge margins to the extent of 2000 per cent to retailers on their generic medicines; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to stop this practice and save the poor patients?